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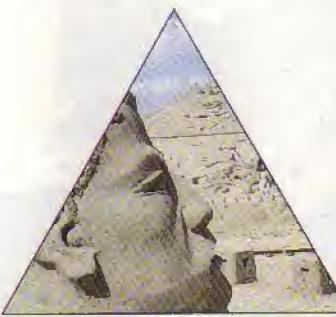
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Photo © Walter Chandoha



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TNT

NEWS BLASTS

Dog-Gone It!

Prairie dogs are a nightmare for farmers and ranchers out West. Farmers say they can't plant in soil full of prairie dog holes. And ranchers complain that their horses and cattle step in the holes and break their legs.

So Gary Balfour dreamed up the perfect solution: a prairie dog vacuum cleaner!

Using a 50-foot-long hose, he sucks prairie dogs out of their underground burrows and into a tank in his truck.

Balfour, from Cortes, CO,



PHOTO © JERRY CLEVELAND / DENVER POST

says his prairie cleaner doesn't hurt them. In fact, inside the holding tank, the prairie dogs play in the dirt that's sucked up with them.

Before Balfour started the Dog-Gone business, prairie

dogs were shot or poisoned. Now they're released far away from farms and ranches. You might say Balfour helps them make a clean getaway!

Story suggested by Bonnie Weiss, Scarsdale, NY.

Fire Alarm?

Scotland has Nessie. The U.S. has Bigfoot. And now Laos, a country in Southeast Asia, has a dragon. NOT!

Well, probably not. Some people say they've seen a five-headed, green, brown and yellow dragon.

It was supposedly hanging out in a river near the capital of Laos.

The beast is said to be 15 feet long and have 10 eyes. The good news is that it doesn't seem to breathe fire and smoke.

Scientists say the "dragon-spotters" may be seeing something—but not a dragon. Instead, it might be a catfish that can grow 10 feet long.

Sounds like this dragon tale could be a fish tail!

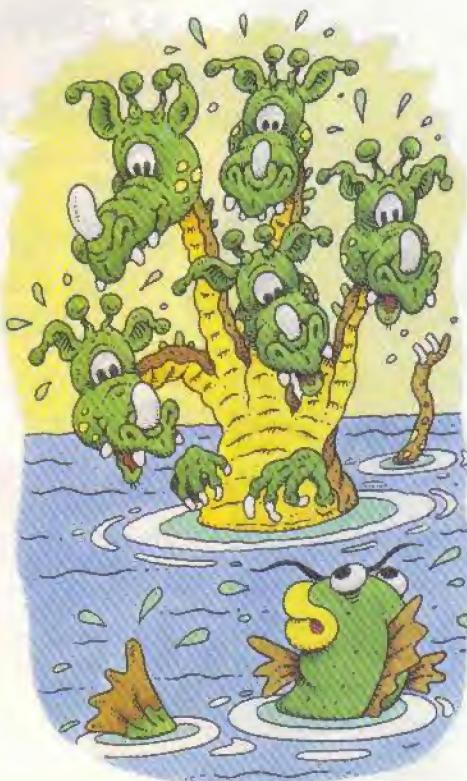


ILLUSTRATION BY FRED SCHRIER

PHOTO BY COLORFIRHEEL



Snow Man

How do you have a snowball fight in June? Just call Jim McPhail. He'll mail you the snowballs.

For Jim McPhail, who lives in Utah, there's no business like snow business. He's already sold hundreds of Genuine Utah Snowballs at \$19.95 each. And the orders keep, well, snowballing!

McPhail came up with this flaky idea while driving home one night. "I saw all this snow and felt sorry for people who live in states that don't have any," he says.

After a snowstorm, he scoops up snowballs and stores them in a freezer. Then when he gets an order, he sends the snowball by air. (It's packed in dry ice so it won't melt.) Now that's what you call a snow job!

Astro-Nuts!

Calling all space cadets! Want to practice landing a shuttle or searching for lost satellites? Then check out Space Center Houston in Texas.

This new museum at the NASA Johnson Space Center definitely has the right stuff.

You can walk through real space ships, try on astronaut gear, see how astronauts brush their teeth in space and even take a spin in "zero gravity." It's a blast!

Feather Busters

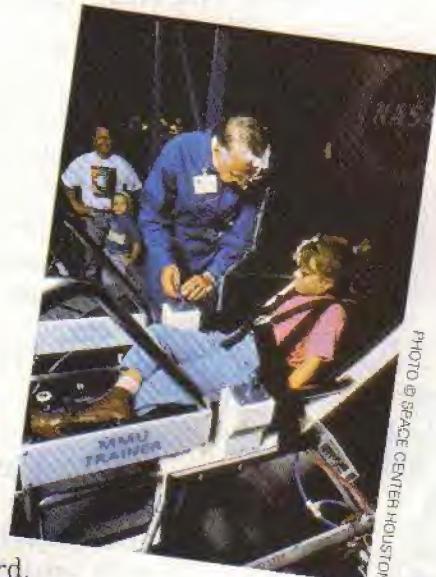
Look out for the killer quills!

Scientists have found the world's first poisonous bird. It's called a hooded pitohui (say: *PIT-oh-hooey*). It lives on the Pacific island of New Guinea. And it has very poisonous feathers.

A U.S. science student made the discovery by accident. He had cut his finger while handling a pitohui. After sucking the cut, his mouth instantly began to burn and turn numb. (He wasn't hurt.)

Scientists think the brightly colored feathers may also act as a warning signal. But if any snake, hawk or other predator doesn't get the hint, just one lick of the bird's feathers does the trick!

*Story suggested by
Ben and Simon
Bernard, Vancouver,
British Columbia,
Canada.*



So What's New?

You tell us and you'll get a nifty CONTACT T-shirt—if we print your story. Send us any science story from the news that you think our readers would like to know about. (Be sure to tell us your T-shirt size and where you heard the story.)

Send to:

TNT
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ANY QUESTIONS?

By Christina Wilsdon

W
H
A
T

IS THE AIDS VIRUS?

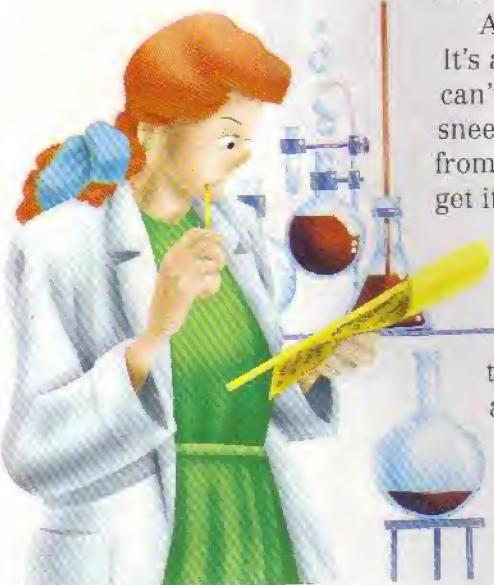
The AIDS virus causes a deadly disease that has no known cure. The virus breaks down a person's ability to fight off diseases and infections.

AIDS is not easy to catch. It's a blood disease. You can't catch it from someone sneezing on you or drinking from your glass. You can't get it by using the same restroom or by hugging someone with AIDS.

AIDS can be spread through sexual contact if a person is infected. Or it can be spread through the exchange of blood. Many drug users who share needles get the virus this way. Some babies are born with AIDS because their mothers carry the virus.

Scientists are working hard to find ways to help people with AIDS lead longer, healthier lives. They're also trying to find a cure for the disease—but that may not happen for a long time.

Question sent in by Cory Smith, Lawrenceburg, TN.



H
O
W

DO SCRATCH-AND-SNIFF STICKERS WORK?

It may smell like a banana. But you won't find one under that yellow sticker on your notebook.

A scratch-and-sniff sticker is packed with tiny capsules that hold scent oils. When you scratch it, you break open the capsules—and out comes the scent. The stickers wear out after you break open all the scent capsules.

Perfume makers like using scratch-and-sniff magazine ads. The perfume is released from the capsules when you tear off a piece of paper glued on top of them. But not everyone loves reading a "smelly" magazine.

Scratch-and-sniffs are used in other ways, too. One opera director gave out scratch-and-sniff cards at a performance. The audience scratched certain parts of the card to go along with the music and action. The cards had smells of oranges, perfumes and even rotten meat! You might say the show really stunk!

Question sent in by Leyna Friedman, Teaneck, NJ.

DO WORMS GROW BACK PARTS OF THEIR BODIES?

Scientists still can't make "heads or tails" of this ability!

They do know that some worms have special cells that help them regenerate, or grow back, parts of their bodies. The cells can form any body part the worm needs.

Other animals can regenerate lost parts, too. Starfish grow new arms—even bodies—if they're injured. Some lizards grow back lost tails. And salamanders can replace lost legs!

Humans and other mammals can't replace arms and legs. But they do regenerate skin, hair, bone, blood and other cells—even a whole new liver. Your liver would work even if 90 percent of it were taken out—and it would probably regenerate until it was full size again!

Question sent in by Diana Jernigan, Far Rockaway, NY.

DOES GRAVITY MAKE OBJECTS FALL?

Objects fall to the ground because of an invisible force called gravity. Earth's gravity pulls objects towards it. If there were no gravity, everything would float.

All objects have gravity: the sun, the moon—even you! But the amount of gravity something has depends on how big it is.

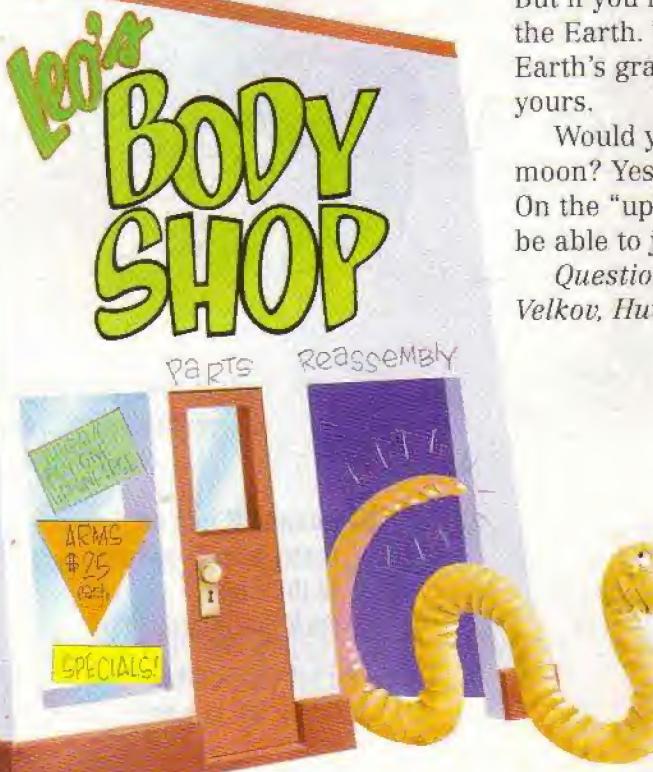
Since Earth is massive, it has a strong force of gravity—so strong that it holds the moon in orbit around it! The moon's gravity is not as strong as the Earth's. So if you weigh 60 pounds on Earth, you'd weigh only 10 pounds on the moon!

Gravity pulls objects towards each other. The moon and the sun's gravity pull on Earth, causing the ocean tides. The sun's pull also keeps Earth in orbit around it.

Likewise, the Earth pulls at you and you pull at the Earth. But if you fall, you move towards the Earth. That's because the Earth's gravity is stronger than yours.

Would you fall down on the moon? Yes—but just more slowly. On the "up" side, though, you'd be able to jump a lot higher!

Question sent in by Nick Velkov, Hutchinson, MN.



Do you have a question
that no one seems able to answer?
Why not ask us? Write to:
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Contact, P.O. Box 40, Vernon,
NJ 07462

FACT

A night on Mercury is equal to three Earth months.



► Your hair grows fastest in the summer and sheds the most in the fall.



► Because it has so many holes, pumice is the only rock that floats.

ODDS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLES PEALE



▲ **T**he exact center of North America is in Rugby, North Dakota.

▲ **A**bout 11 percent of the world's population is left-handed.

▲ **S**eals can stay underwater for as long as 70 minutes.



Dome Sweet Dome:

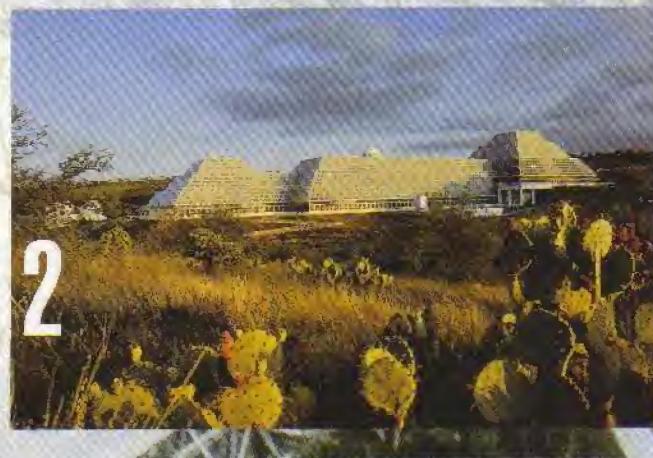


The photo of the Biospherians (above) and all other photos were taken from outside the Biosphere.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS © PETER MENZEL

By Eric Weiner

A Peek Into Biosphere 2



2

In September of 1991, a team of eight scientists locked themselves inside a huge, sealed greenhouse in Oracle, AZ. Known as Biosphere 2 (Biosphere 1 is the Earth), the glass domes covered more than three acres of land. It also housed thousands of plants and animals. The idea was to see if life could survive in this planet-in-a-bottle.

The crew members—called Biospherians—would be completely cut off from the outside world and could only eat what they raised on their farm.

That was the idea. But almost as soon as the experiment began, it was hit by waves of bad publicity. Articles said things were going wrong with the experiment. There were even reports that the crew wanted to leave.

Is Biosphere in trouble? To find out, CONTACT spoke with scientists both inside and outside the greenhouse.

Problems, Problems

Just one month after the experiment started, Biospherian Jane Pynter sliced off a fingertip in a farming accident. She came out of the greenhouse for surgery. When she returned—only a few hours later—she brought back with her a duffel bag full of supplies, including books and film.

Some said this was cheating. After all, wasn't the crew supposed to make do without supplies from outside? ■





Crew member Mark Nelson holds a mini-biosphere.
LEFT: In an experiment, Biospherians grow plants in test tubes.

Chris Helms is an official with Biosphere 2. Helms told CONTACT, "A lot of people didn't realize that the crew had to start with some food supplies already in there. Otherwise they'd starve to death before they started raising their own food." According to Helms, bringing in books didn't hurt the experiment.

Another problem quickly followed. In December, engineers outside Biosphere found leaks in the glass domes, plugged them up, then pumped in air to replace the lost air.

The new air meant new criticism for Biosphere 2. But, explained Chris Helms, "The chemical make up of Biosphere's mini-atmosphere returned to exactly the way it was before—within 48 hours. So the new air didn't really change a thing."

Sally Silverstone is captain of the Biosphere crew. She spoke to us by phone from her apartment inside the giant greenhouse. We asked Sally whether reports of a mutiny among the crew were true. "That is just totally made up," Sally said.

But what isn't made up is that oxygen levels inside the domes are falling.

The Sky is Falling

By January 1993, the oxygen level was down to what you'd find on top of a very tall mountain. Crew members were having headaches, slept poorly and had trouble working.

So workers started to pump in emergency oxygen to bring the greenhouse atmosphere back to normal.

When people breathe, they take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide (CO₂). So why shouldn't the closed Biosphere run out of oxygen? Because

the greenhouse is filled with plants. Plants take in CO₂ and give off oxygen as part of a process known as photosynthesis (say: *Fo-toe-SIN-thuh-sis*). With all those plants giving off oxygen, scientists thought that the level of oxygen inside the glass dome would stay the same.

But the Biosphere's scientists aren't worried by the oxygen loss. In fact, they're excited. "The oxygen loss is a fascinating mystery. When we solve it, we'll know more about how this enclosed system works," said Tony Burgess, one of the project's designers.

A Day Under Glass

Despite all the troubles outside, life inside has gone on as usual for the crew. But what's "usual" for people living in a glass house?

Hard work! The Biospherians have to do everything for themselves. Every day, Sally gets up at 6:30 a.m. to start work on the indoor farm.

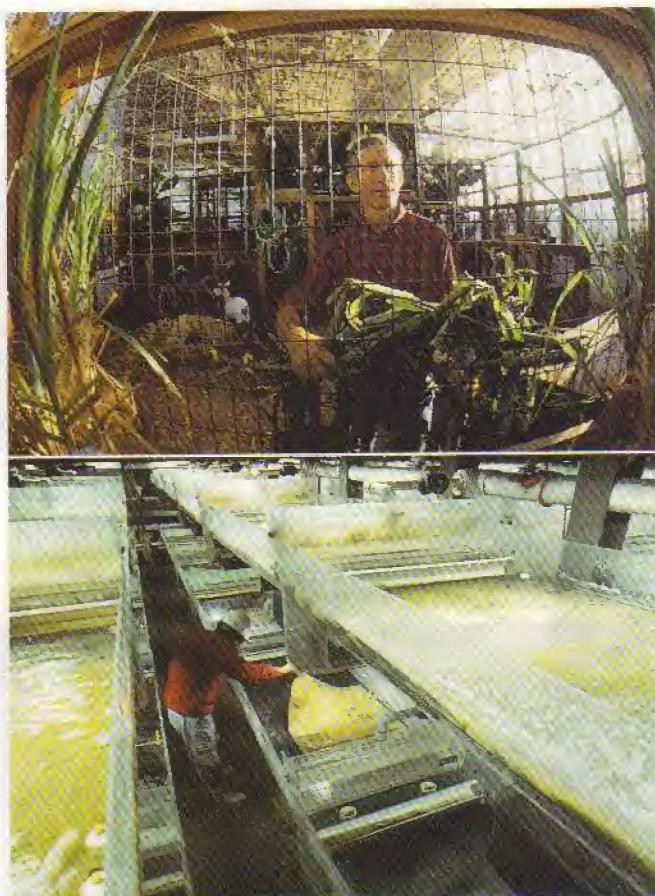
"Once we've grown and harvested the food, it doesn't stop there," says Sally. "If it's wheat, for instance, we've got to thresh it, which means we take off the hull or seed covering. Then we have to grind it to make flour. Finally, we have to bake the bread or cookies or whatever we're making."

The crew also spends many hours each day gathering data and doing scientific research. ■



Soup's on! Roy Walford and the rest of the Biospherians enjoy lunch. **BELOW:** Abigail Alling skims junk off the surface of the "ocean" before taking a swim. **BOTTOM:** The greenhouse "rain forest."





TOP: Mark Nelson feeds some goats in the animal pen. **ABOVE:** Water is made pure for drinking and farming.

Sally, for instance, is studying ways of using insects such as ladybugs to keep pesky plant-eating bugs away from the crops.

The job doesn't end there. The crew takes turns doing a night watch—walking through the dark Biosphere to make sure all is going well.

Not only the humans stay up. So do the four monkeys living in the greenhouse! "When I go into the wilderness part of the Biosphere," Sally said, "the monkeys scream at me for invading their territory."

Cabin Fever?

Though the same eight people have been cooped up together for 16 months, Sally says everyone is still getting along pretty well.

"You have to remember, Biosphere 2 is huge. It's not like we're right on top of each other, like in a submarine or a space shuttle. The men and women have their own apartments."

In fact, Biosphere is so big, everyone has to wear radios day and night. That way, they can stay in contact in case of an emergency.

What does Sally miss most while living in

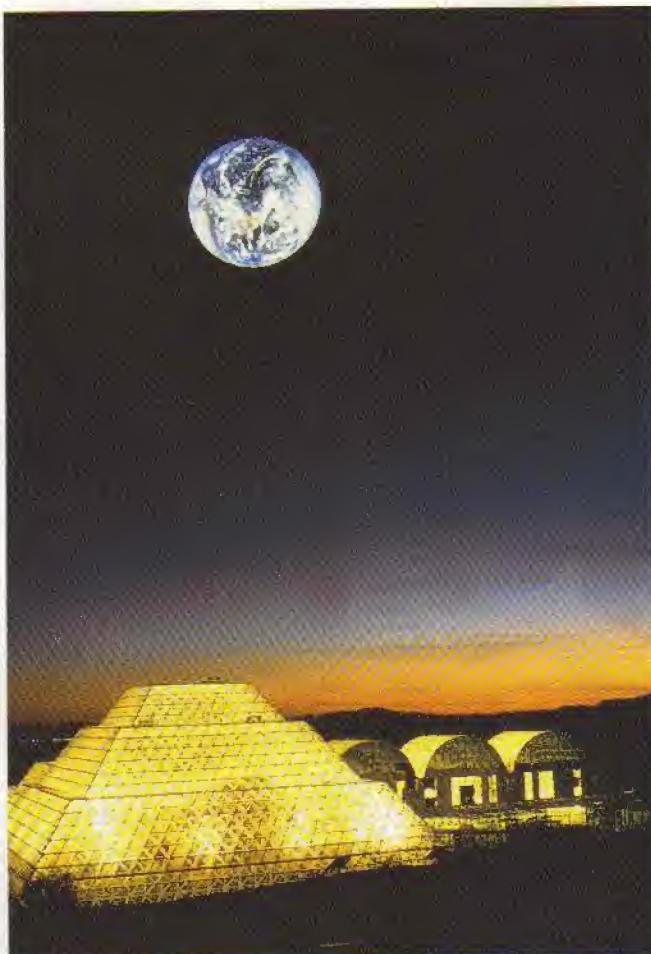
Biosphere? "Horseback riding and shopping!" She also misses her friends, and she says it helps when they come to visit and wave at her through the glass.

Sally's friends aren't the only visitors to the Biosphere. Every day, hundreds of tourists walk around the outside of the greenhouse, peering in. "It helps a lot, actually," Sally said. "Kids come out to watch us even in the worst weather. It helps keep us going."

Biosphere's Future

This September, the crew of Biosphere will finally get to come out. Scientists will study all their data. Then a new crew will go in. And two years later, still another crew will follow them. Despite all the bad publicity, Biosphere hopes to continue the experiment for the next 100 years.

But officials also hope that the information they are gathering with Biosphere 2 will be useful now. They think the data will help us learn how to better manage the environmental problems of Biosphere 1—the Earth. ♦





Star Bright

Who's the "star" of the sea? The Pacific Blue Sea Star! It's dining on a soft coral, called a Red Sea Fan.

Sea stars can twist into almost any shape imaginable. That's because they have an inner skeleton made of many flexible hinges. (Talk about a stellar performance!)

Flip them over, and you'll see that they're all mouth. Sea stars use their mouths to scour the bottom of the ocean for clams, oysters and mussels. But they also like munching on algae that grow on coral. No wonder Red Sea Fans are their biggest fans!

Dealing with DIVORCE

Justin will never forget the day he found out. It was 10 years ago—when he was nine and his brother Dan was only seven.

“My mom took us into her bedroom,” Justin remembers. “We sat on her bed, and she said that she had something serious to tell us.

“I remember laughing, and saying half-jokingly, ‘Yeah, like you guys are getting divorced or something,’” Justin told CONTACT. His mother was stunned. That’s exactly the news she had to share with her sons.

“I was surprised at the time,” says Justin. “But I guess that I must have had some idea that my parents were having problems.”

Whether or not divorce is a surprise, it’s more common than many people realize. Divorce affects more than one million families every year.



DRICE

By Lisa Feder-Feitel



Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

Divorce is no fun for anyone. But once in a while, it can have a positive side. Melissa Gordon is a school psychologist. She works every day with the kids whose parents have split up. She says that in some marriages, the parents fight all the time. This makes the kids sad. When this kind of marriage ends, the kids often feel better. Their home life becomes happier.

(It's important to remember that fighting doesn't cause divorce. All parents fight. Gordon told CONTACT, "People get divorced for deeper, more complicated reasons.")

For the most part, divorce causes pain and confusion, especially for the kids involved.

One of the worst feelings many kids have—at least at first—is that the divorce is their fault.

"Sometimes I thought that I was the problem—that's why they were getting divorced," says seven-year-old Hallie. "But then I discovered they were fighting. And it wasn't me who was responsible for their fights."

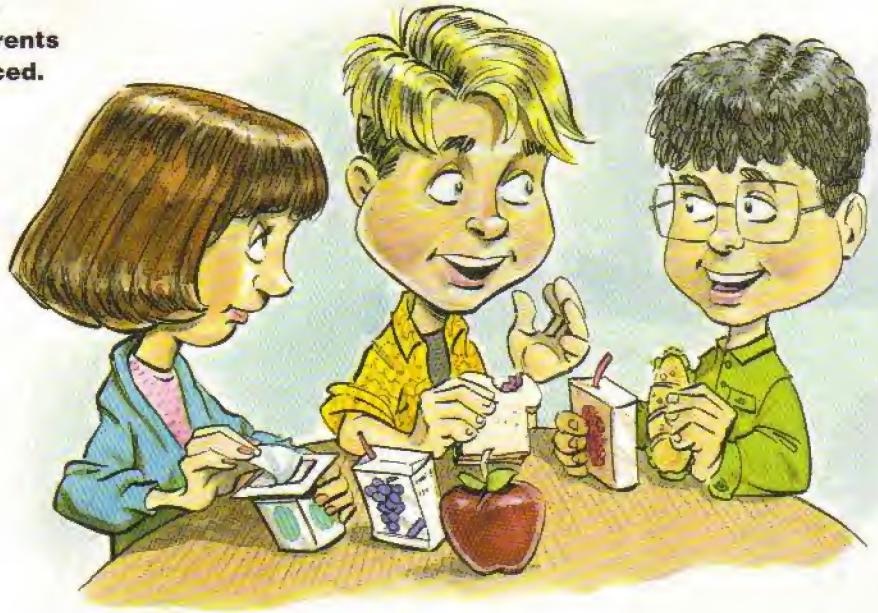
Fortunately, many parents try to make sure that their children don't feel responsible for their parents breaking up.

"My parents wouldn't even let the thought enter my head," says 10-year-old Emily. "They told me so often that I wasn't to blame that I finally got the picture."

Going Through Changes

When parents split, it's their kids who have to make the most changes: where they live, who they live with, the amount of money their mom and dad have to spend, where they go to school, who their friends are. ☀

**It helps to talk to
friends if your parents
are getting divorced.**



Sometimes the changes make their lives easier. Justin lived with his dad in Pittsburgh, moved to a new house and started going to a new school: "That was good for us—it gave us a fresh start. And we didn't have to tell everyone at school what had happened."

But more often these changes cause unhappiness and anger. "The hardest part for me," remembers Emily, "was going back and forth from my mom to my dad's house. I felt like I was being pushed and pulled all the time."

Being forced to take sides between parents is one of the toughest parts of a divorce. Says psychologist Melissa Gordon, "I've seen situations where one parent says bad things about the other parent. Then when the other parent comes for the children, the kids feel as if they're being handed over to the enemy."

If parents put their children in that situation, Gordon advises the kids to say, "I don't want to hear that. It makes me feel terrible when you say those things about mom/dad."

Lean on Me

During a divorce, children feel they can't count on the people they trusted the most—their parents. So kids often turn to each other for support.

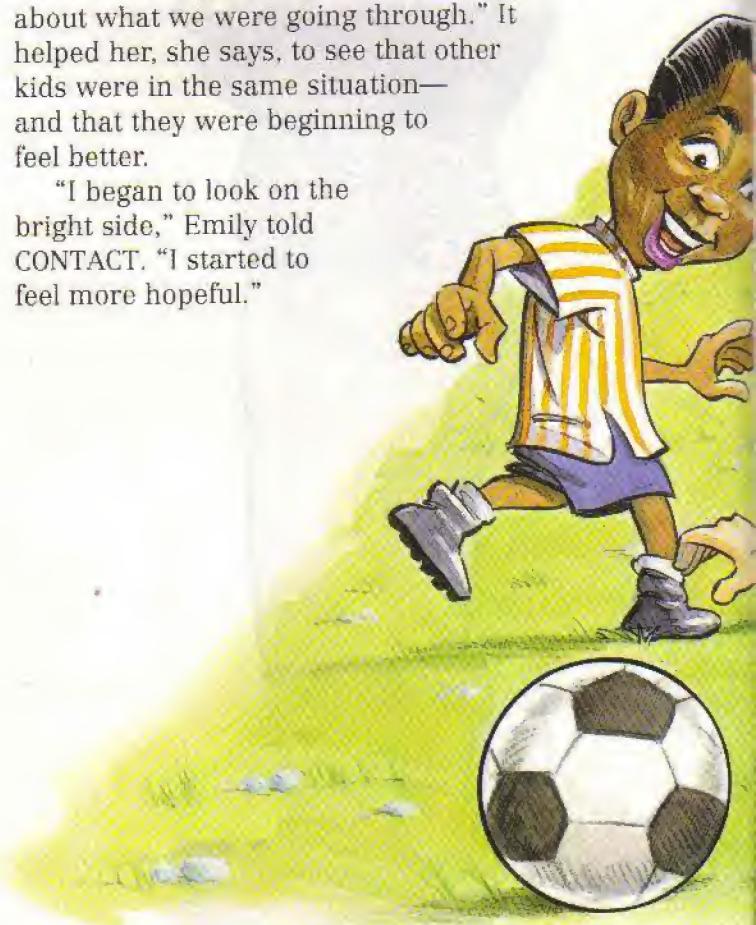
"When it happened, the first person I told was my best friend," says Lyman. "His parents are separated—so he understood what I was going through."

Justin recalls how he and his brother supported each other. "We hung out a lot. We told each other that we were a team, that we'd always be together."

You can be a good friend to someone whose parents are splitting up—even if your parents didn't divorce. Gordon advises you to encourage your friend to talk about how he or she feels. That alone will help.

Emily found another kind of support at school. "On Thursday mornings, the school counselor had a divorce group," she says. "We talked about what we were going through." It helped her, she says, to see that other kids were in the same situation—and that they were beginning to feel better.

"I began to look on the bright side," Emily told CONTACT. "I started to feel more hopeful."

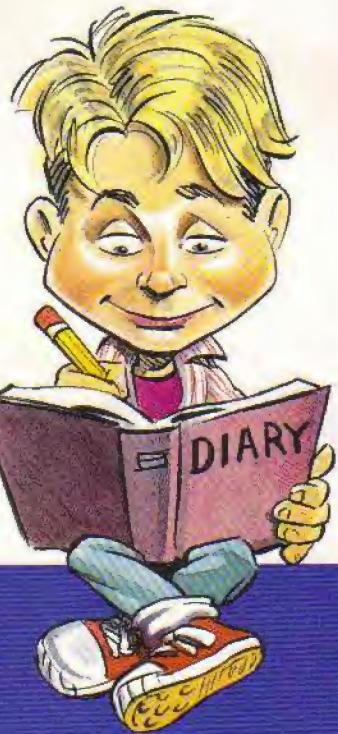


Help Yourself

It takes a while before the pain of divorce goes away. But here are some ways to make yourself feel better.

- Believe in yourself. Your parents' problems weren't caused by you. Say things to yourself, like, "I can be mad at my parents and still love them. I can feel sad and still be a great person."
- Write a letter to a parent or keep a diary, telling how you feel. Sometimes it's easier to write what you feel before you say it.
- Do things that relax you, such as listening to music or exercising. Justin found that playing soccer—which took all his concentration—was a great way to feel better.
- Don't be afraid to talk openly with your parents. Your parents won't know how you feel unless you tell them. They'll be glad to know what's on your mind. ♦

Playing sports can make you feel better.



Reading About Divorce

Here are some books about kids who have gone through their parents' separation and divorce.

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary (Dell, \$3.99) and **Strider** (Avon, \$3.99)

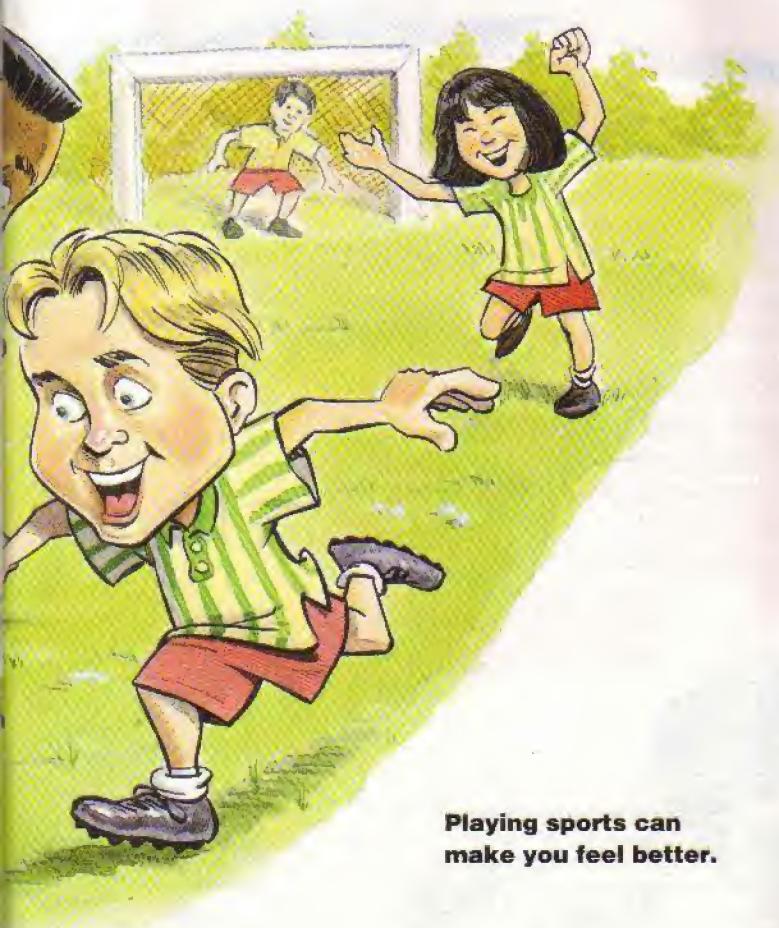
In a series of letters to an adult, Leigh describes his parents' divorce—and his own feelings about it. The first novel follows Leigh from first to sixth grade. *Strider* is Leigh's diary as a teenager.

How it Feels When Parents Divorce by Jill Krementz (Bantam, \$4.99)

This is a collection of photographs and interviews with 19 girls and boys, ages seven to 16, whose parents have divorced. They all have different backgrounds and different stories to tell.

The Boys and Girls Book About Divorce by Richard Gardner, M.D. (Bantam, \$4.99)

This book answers questions that many kids ask: Are you "bad" when you get angry at your mom or dad? How can you tell if your father loves you if he lives in another city? Do you blame yourself for your parents' divorce?



Sand Science

What makes a sand sculpture stick together?

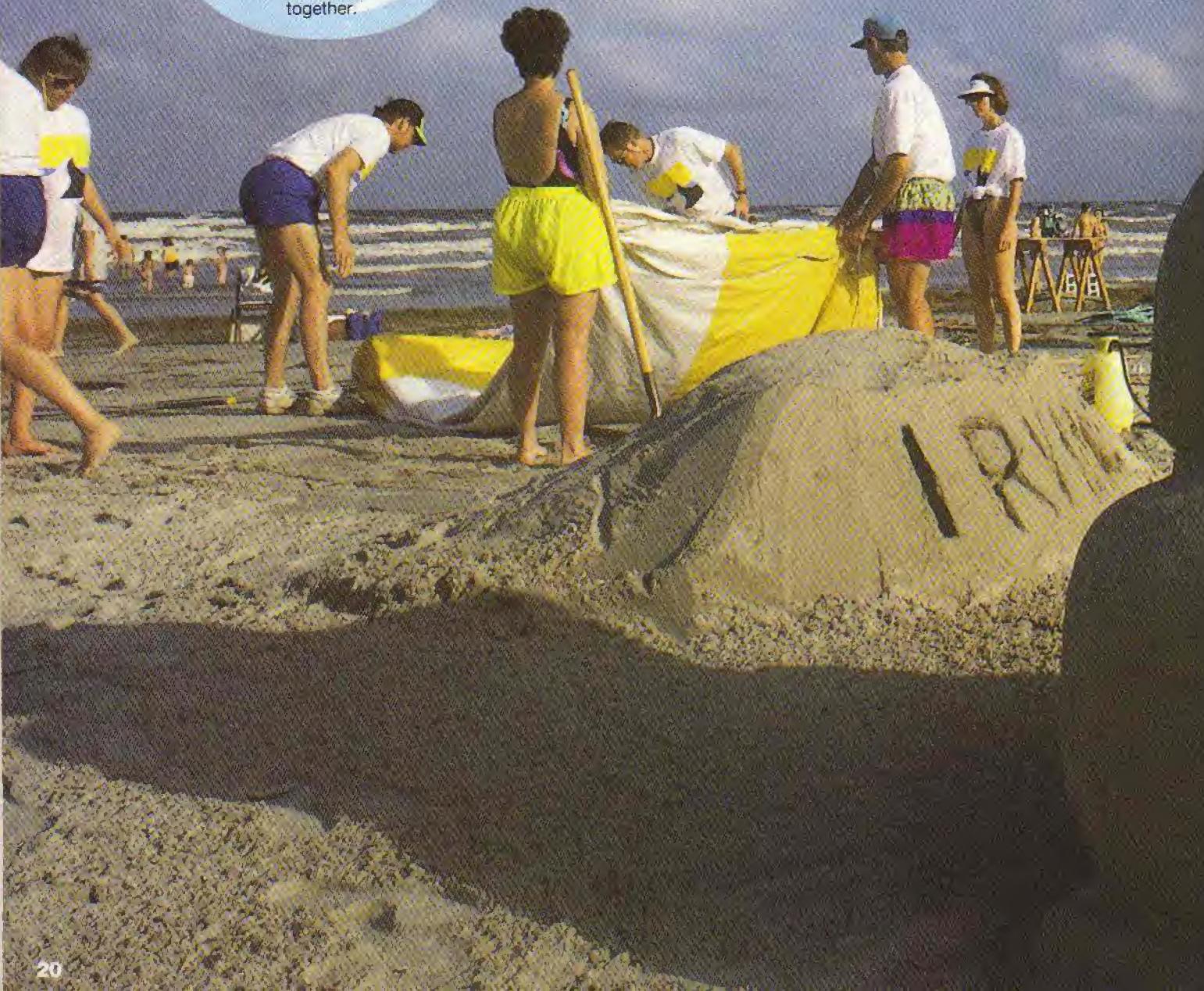
Water

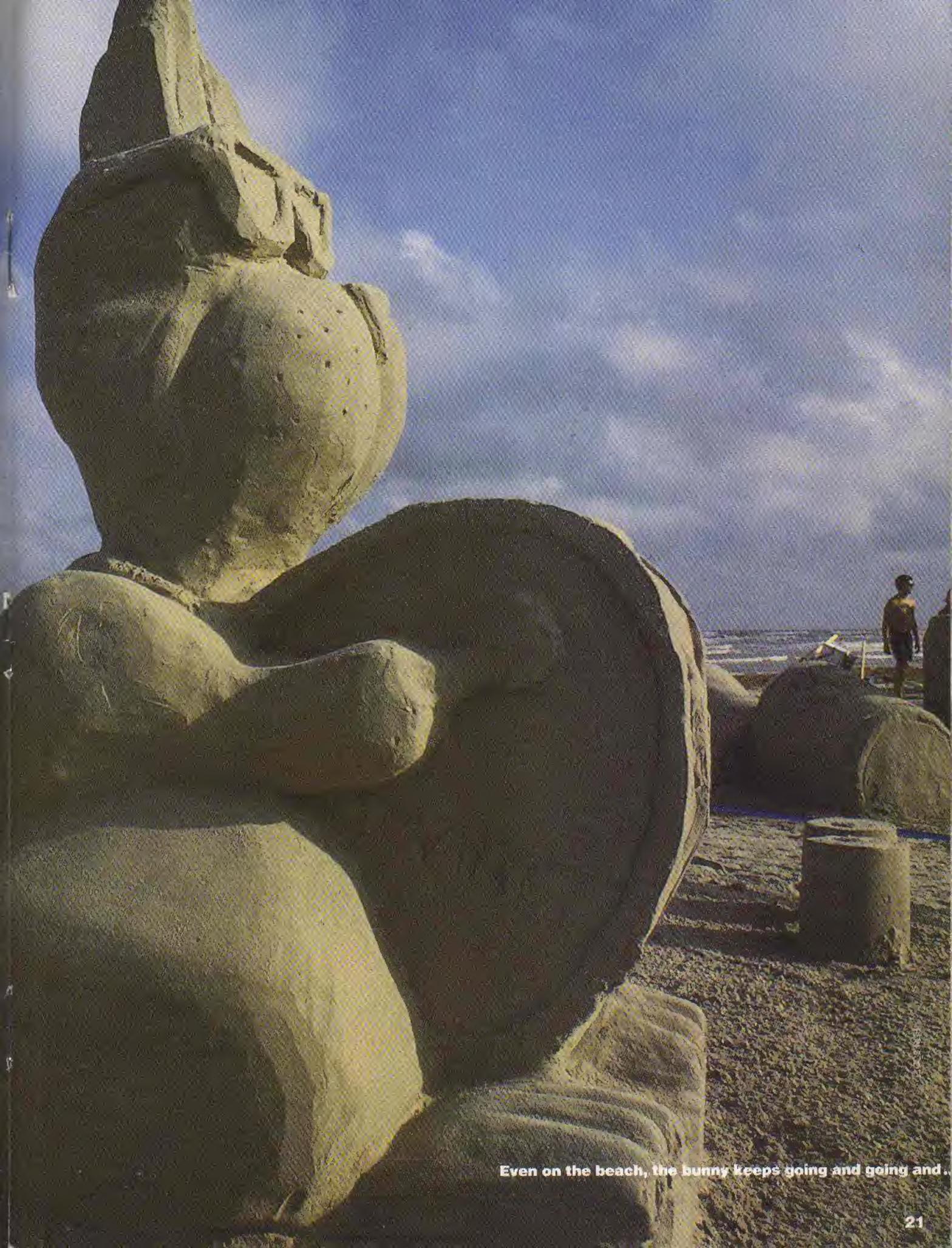
answers sand

sculptor pro Tim

Siebert of Seattle, WA.

Here's why: When sand is mixed with water, it creates surface tension. Imagine two panes of glass stacked together. If you put a few drops of water between the two panes, you can't separate them easily. As long as the panes are moist, they stick together. The same goes for sand sculptures. As long as they have enough water, the sand sticks together.





Even on the beach, the bunny keeps going and going and...

A Shore Thing

Want to be a master sculptor? Here are ways to make your sculpture look fine and "sandy"!

- Use anything to carve: tools, spoons, cookie cutters, etc. The best tool is your imagination!

- To make a square tower, use a plastic knife to shave off sand on all four sides. Slice off the top so it's square, too. To make a pyramid tip, slice four sides at an angle to form a pointed tip.

- To carve doors and square windows, gently push the flat end of a putty knife into a wall. Scrape downward. Repeat the motion scraping upward. For round windows, use a butter knife handle. Turn the handle gently until you have a circle. Or scoop out windows with a melon baller.

- Use shells, seaweed and other found objects to carve and decorate your castle or sculpture.

Yikes! "Sand Traps!"

- Don't add sand to your sculpture or castle—it will crumble. Instead, carve away sand. Always work from top to bottom. Carve the tops of buildings before you start on the lower level.

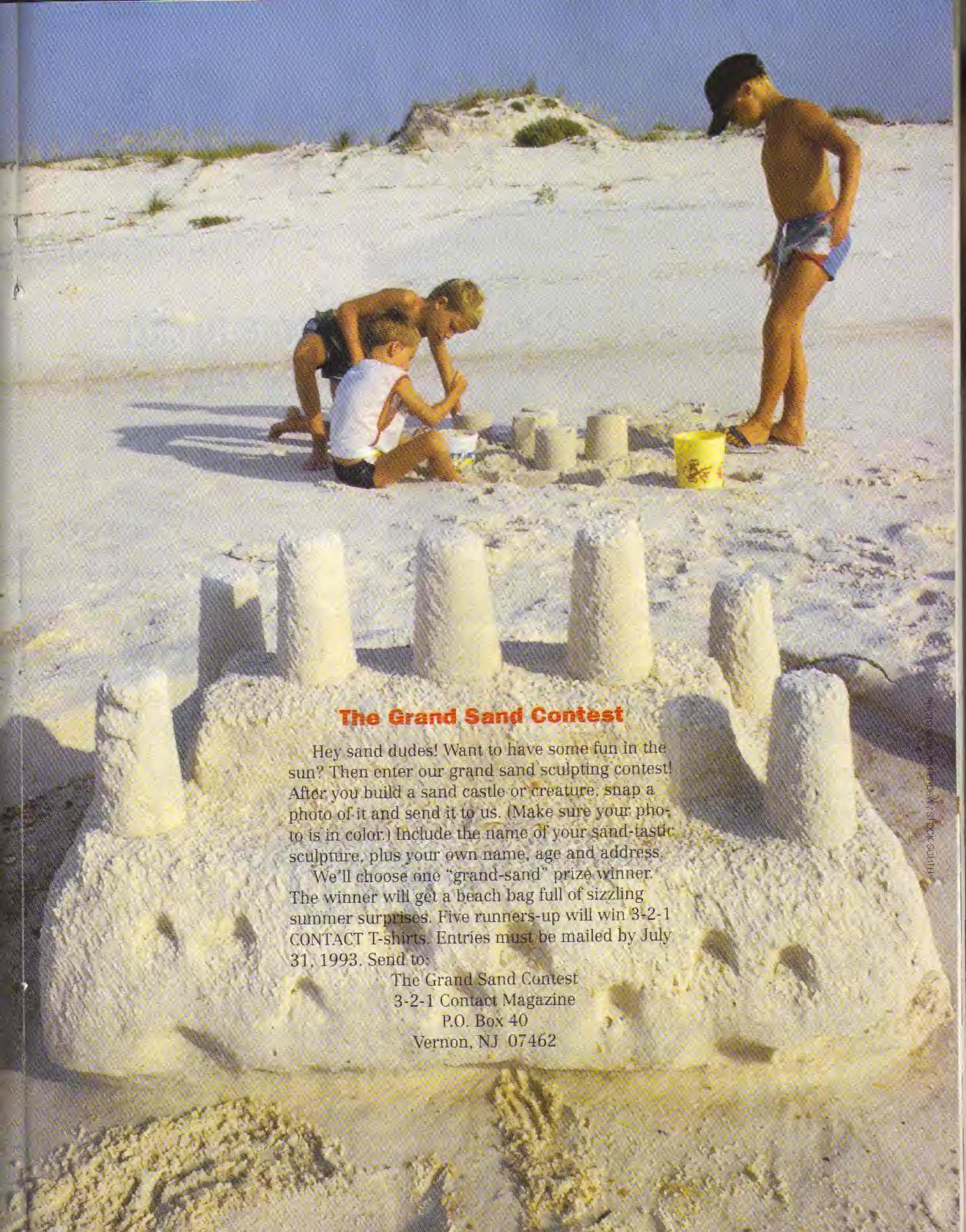
- To form a creature, pile mounds of wet sand. You can't add sand later, so make sure your creature is big enough to begin with.

- For a drip sand castle, the wet sand must feel like pancake batter. Grab a fistful, open your little finger and slowly let the sand leak through.

- Sand that's too dry won't hold up. While carving, keep your sculpture damp with a spray mister filled with sea water. Sea water is a perfect "glue." When it evaporates, the salt crystals remain and form a thin crust over the sculpture.

- Use a straw to blow loose sand away from the area you're carving. Don't use your hands!

ILLUSTRATIONS: INELE DAVIS

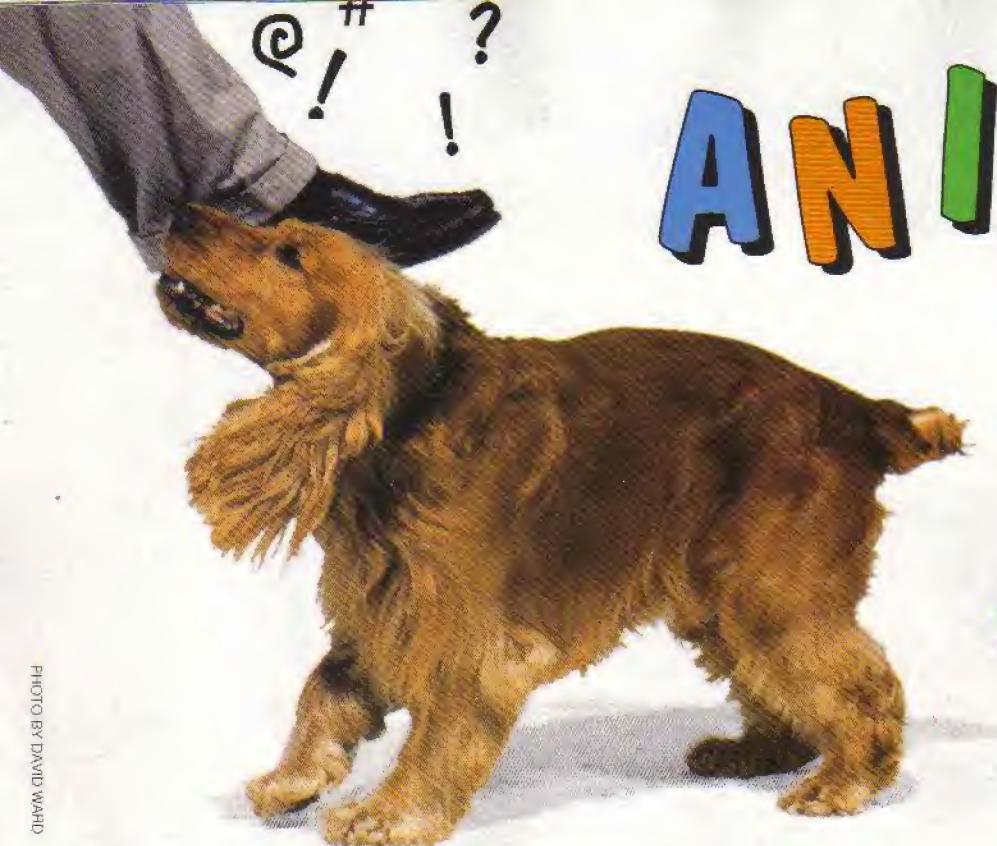


The Grand Sand Contest

Hey sand dudes! Want to have some fun in the sun? Then enter our grand sand sculpting contest! After you build a sand castle or creature, snap a photo of it and send it to us. (Make sure your photo is in color.) Include the name of your sand-tastic sculpture, plus your own name, age and address.

We'll choose one "grand-sand" prize winner. The winner will get a beach bag full of sizzling summer surprises. Five runners-up will win 3-2-1 CONTACT T-shirts. Entries must be mailed by July 31, 1993. Send to:

The Grand Sand Contest
3-2-1 Contact Magazine
P.O. Box 40
Vernon, NJ 07462



ANIMAL

WHO TO CALL WHEN YOUR PET IS DISSIN' YOU

PHOTO BY DAVID WARD

By Beth Chayet



Peter Borchelt is a doctor. He communicates with his clients by offering them praise, understanding—and an occasional bone. That's because half of his clients are dogs. And the other half are cats.

Dr. Borchelt is an animal behaviorist. He studies how animals behave and how they learn. His job is to help pet owners solve their pets' behavior problems. He does this by using some of the same psychology that's used with humans. "One difference is that people can use words and animals can't," explains Dr. Borchelt. So to figure out an animal's problem, Peter Borchelt must observe it. And he finds out everything he possibly can about the pet from its owner.

Shoe Business

When Dr. Borchelt's phone rings, he never knows what kind of problem he'll be called on to help with.

Take Brutus,* for instance: He got really nasty whenever he saw somebody wearing black work

**All pet names have been changed to protect their privacy—and the not-so-innocent!*



shoes. "Brutus was perfectly friendly to anyone who wore sneakers," Dr. Borchelt told CONTACT. "But if a person wore black shoes, Brutus attacked the shoes." The upset owner didn't know what to do.

That was when Peter Borchelt got to work. For starters, he had the owner buy a pair of black shoes and put them in the house. As Brutus got used to them, the owner put on the shoes and walked around. "This helped the dog slowly get used to the black shoes," explains Dr. Borchelt.

CRACKERS



"It was a slow process of teaching Brutus that black shoes are not going to hurt him."

What does Dr. Borchelt make of this case? "You can be pretty sure that before the owner got Brutus, somebody had kicked him with black shoes," says Dr. Borchelt.

Fearful dogs aren't Dr. Borchelt's only clients. He also treats cats. His most common feline cases? Getting a cat to use its litter box. Other cat cases involve "wild" cats, like Snowball. "Snowball was chasing the owner's feet and biting him," says Dr. Borchelt. "The cat's play was normal. But since it hurt the owner, we used toys to show Snowball how to play in a different—and less painful—way."

PHOTO BY JANE BURTON



Getting Her Licks In

Robin Kovary's patients bark and growl at her. It's all part of her job as an animal behavior consultant. She trains dogs to be well behaved. And she also trains humans to keep their dogs on their best behavior. "Helping people to understand, appreciate and get along with their dogs is very important to me," says Kovary.

Sometimes dog owners call Kovary for tips ↗

PHOTO BY JANE BURTON



PHOTO BY DAVID WARD



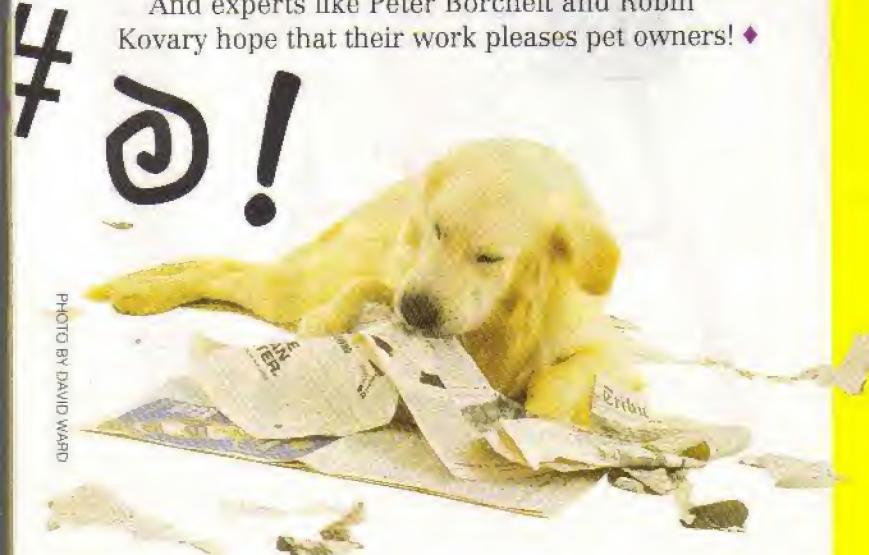
about feeding and caring for their pets. Other times a dog has a specific problem that needs to be corrected.

"I got a call from a woman who wanted to housebreak Scooter, her toy poodle. When I arrived, I noticed teeth marks all over her husband's hand. Something told me housebreaking wasn't Scooter's only problem. In the next room, a white, fluffy dog was standing on the dining room table. Scooter was growling and sort of daring me to come in.

"Every time the owners tried to get the dog off the table, Scooter would bite them. It was clear the dog ruled the humans with an iron paw!"

Kovary told the owners that they needed to take charge and get Scooter to respect them. Then she taught the dog that he had to follow certain rules. "First we trained him to do basic commands, like sit and stay, before he could get our attention," says Kovary. "Every time Scooter obeyed, we gave him a treat to let him know how happy we were. Once a dog understands that what he did made you happy, he'll keep trying to please you."

And experts like Peter Borchelt and Robin Kovary hope that their work pleases pet owners! ♦



ENTER OUR LOOK-ALIKE LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST

Has anyone ever told you that you look like your pet? Well, after so many years of caring for your lovable pal, maybe you do. Send us a photo of you and your pet. If we see double, you two just might win a great prize—and get your photo in 3-2-1 CONTACT! So snap to it! Include your name, age, address and pet's name.

One Grand Prize human winner will receive a 35mm camera and film. And your pet will get a neat squeaky toy. Four runners-up will win CONTACT T-shirts. Winners will be judged on how much they look like their pets. Entries must be mailed by June 15, 1993.



Send to:
Pet Look-Alike Contest
3-2-1 Contact Magazine
P.O. Box 40
Vernon, NJ 07462

THE TIME TEAM

Three's A Crowd

By Curtis Slepian

"Hey, Freddy, let go, you big goon!"

"I'll let go when you give me your physics homework, Nolan."

Freddy Plunk had a grip on Sean Nolan's shirt. Sean and Freddy were outside Albert Einstein High School. Freddy kept pulling on Sean's shirt.

Just as Sean was ready to give in, Jenny Lopez walked over. "Hey, Freddy, why don't you pick on someone your own size," she said.

Freddy let go of Sean and turned to Jenny. "Like you? Who asked you to butt in?"

"You're nothing but a bully."

"Aww," sneered Plunk. "You really hurt my feelings."

"I'm going to tell the Vice Principal about you. You'll be suspended."

"Just try it," growled Plunk. Then he noticed someone walking by. "Hey, Rogers, you owe me money." Plunk sauntered over to his next victim.

Sean said, "Freddy's a jumbo-size creep."

"Just ignore him," said Jenny.

"It's hard to ignore someone who's about to rip your head off."

The two teens walked off together. Freddy noticed and decided to follow them. He didn't like being threatened by Jenny. "Maybe I can hassle her a little bit," he thought with a mean chuckle.

A few minutes later, the teens entered Jenny's house. Freddy watched them through a window. They were laughing. Jenny held up something that looked like a Walkman. Suddenly, a bright flash lit the room. Jenny seemed to vanish.

An instant later she reappeared. After another flash, she disappeared again. Then Freddy saw something really strange: Standing in Jenny's room was a knight dressed in armor and a helmet. Sean pulled off the helmet. The knight was Jenny!

What was going on here? "If I find out," thought Freddy, "maybe I can get them into trouble."

Strange Happenings

The next day, Freddy sat down in physics class. He felt pretty good. He had just copied Steve Bishop's homework. Bishop did better in physics than Nolan.

Today's class was about Sir Isaac Newton. Freddy yawned as the teacher, Ms. Porter, asked a question about the great English scientist. "In the 17th century, Isaac Newton got the idea for gravity after something hit him on the head. What was it?"

Sean raised his hand: "It was an apple pie."

The class snickered. Ms. Porter said, "No, Sean, it was an apple."

Sean muttered, "I *know* it was an apple pie."

From his seat, Steve Bishop grinned, "How do you know it was apple pie? Were you there?"

Sean's face got red. "As a matter of fact—" Sean hesitated. He looked over at Jenny. Then he said, "I guess I got Isaac Newton mixed up with Mrs. Smith."

After class, when she thought nobody was around, Jenny hissed at Sean, "Are you crazy?"



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB LARKIN

You almost told everyone you visited Newton. You want people to find out about the machine?"

But there was someone around. Freddy Plunk was spying on the teens. He thought, "Visited Newton? The machine? Something weird is going on with those two."

Freddy kept thinking about the stuff that happened in Jenny's house and what he had overheard about visiting the past. Then there was the "machine." Did Jenny mean the strange-looking Walkman?

"I've got to get my hands on that Walkman," Freddy said to himself. "I'll bet it has something to do with whatever's going on with them."

For the first time in his life, Freddy decided he'd get what he wanted by being patient—instead of by beating someone up. "If it takes me a year, I'll find out what they're up to."

It didn't take a year. It took two months. Jenny made the mistake of carrying the "Walkman" to school. Freddy noticed it in her book bag. When she put the bag down on a lunch room table, Freddy reached inside and took it. He put the machine in his pocket, and kept it there the rest of the day.

That evening, in his room, Freddy looked at the machine. It was no Walkman. It only had one button. For an hour, Freddy stared at the button. He felt as if he was about to dive off a highboard. Finally, he gulped, "I'm not chicken," and pressed the button.

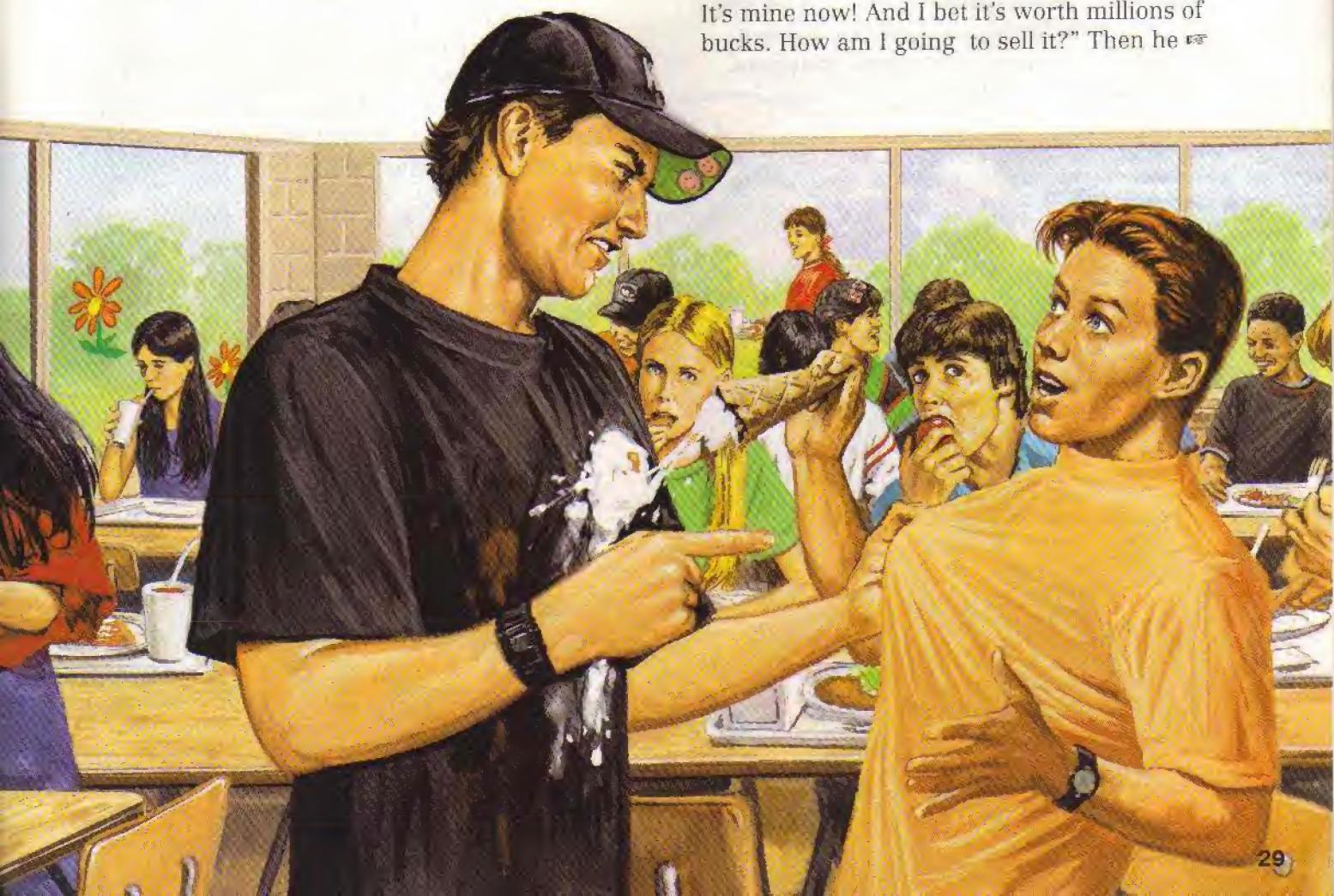
Freddy Is Freaked

Freddy felt his stomach drop. An instant later, he was standing next to a man in a white wig. The guy was dressed in clothes from the Colonial days. He was bent over a desk, writing with a quill pen. As the man turned towards Freddy, the teenager recognized him. It was the guy on the dollar bill. George Washington! In the flesh!

Freddy almost fainted. He pressed the button on the machine. Instantly, he was back in his room.

Freddy Plunk's mind was reeling. Now it all made sense! Sean and Jenny had visited Isaac Newton. And the time he saw them through the window—Jenny probably had gotten that knight's suit during a trip to the past.

"The Walkman's a time machine!" crowed Freddy. "How did Jenny get it? Hey, who cares? It's mine now! And I bet it's worth millions of bucks. How am I going to sell it?" Then he



Time Bandits

remembered how his father sold his car...

Jenny's Walkman *was* a time machine. It was originally a science fair project on sub-atomic particles called tachyons. But Sean had accidentally dropped it. The fall changed the machine. Now it could send Sean and Jenny to the past and future.

Right now it couldn't send them anywhere. Because they didn't have it. When Jenny had realized it was gone from her bag, she alerted Sean. Someone had taken it. They went nuts.

They had no clue who had it. Then Sean found one in the want ads of the local newspaper. He frantically phoned Jenny. "Listen to this: 'Have real time machine. No joke. Will sell to highest bidder. Call Freddy at 555-3748.'"

Jenny called the number. A man answered the phone: "This is the Plunk residence."

"Sorry, wrong number," said Jenny.

So Freddy Plunk had stolen the machine. When told, Sean moaned, "What do we do now?"

"I don't know," replied Jenny. "But we'd better think of something before he sells it!"

The Time Team watched Plunk's every move. The good news was he hadn't sold the time machine yet. The bad news was he carried the time machine in his bag everywhere he went. "We'll never get it away from him," said Sean.

Jenny squinted. "I think I've got a plan."

Next day, Freddy Plunk was in the school cafeteria. He was about to sit down when Sean bumped into him. He spilled his soda down the front of Freddy's shirt.

"You moron!" Freddy screamed, putting down his bag. Sean had an ice cream cone in his other hand. He squished it against Freddy's chest. "Ooops! I guess you've got an ice cream soda on your shirt."

Sean started running, and Freddy chased him. Meantime, Jenny pulled out the time machine from Freddy's bag. She put it in her pocket. She didn't think anyone had seen her. But one person had: Mitch the Snitch.

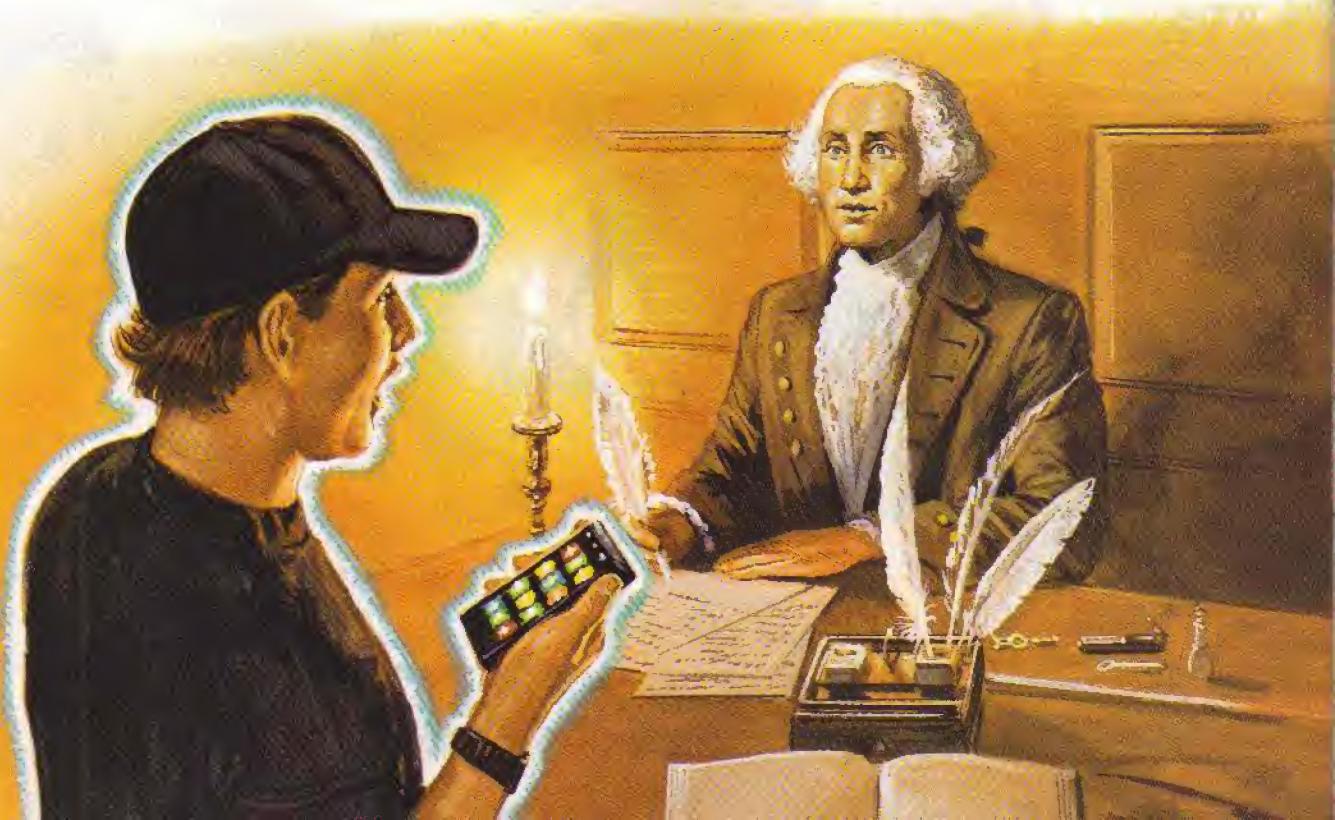
After school, the teens sat in Jenny's room and laughed. "You should have seen Freddy's face when the lunch room monitor stopped him and gave him detention," Sean chuckled.

Jenny said, "I'd like to have seen his face when he noticed the tachyon machine was gone."

They started laughing again.

The phone rang. Jenny picked it up. "This is Freddy. Okay, you have the time machine. But don't forget that I know about your machine now. And if you want it to stay a secret, you're going to have to deal with me." He hung up.

Jenny muttered, "Freddy may have the last laugh." When she told Sean what Freddy had said, Sean sighed, "I don't think we've seen the last of Freddy Plunk."♦





O SAY CAN YOU C? CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our "O Say Can You C?" Contact Contest (Jan/Feb '93 issue). Because so many of you had the right answer, we held a drawing.

The grand-prize winner is:

Lisa Pettinati, Fairless Hills, PA

Here is a list of her C-words: clock, confetti, coat, Cubs shirt, checker game, camera, cake, can of soda, cups, cheese, crackers, car, calendar, cherries on pants, cat, curtains, cap, couch, chair, carpet, candle, cutting board, coat rack, comb, cake cutter, curls, cloth, circles, cushions, checkered pants.

Second-prize winner:

Lynette Bui, Anaheim, CA

Third-prize winner:

Alonzo Ward, Ellenwood, GA

Five runners-up:

Trisha Crutchfield, Drexel, NC

Karen Stolt, Franklin, KY

Paul Rother, Hackensack, MN

Dominique Ho, San Francisco, CA

Nora Sumner-Kopf, Richmond, VT

THE SLICE IS RIGHT

Dear CONTACT,

In your Jan/Feb '93 issue, I tried the Square One puzzle "The Slice is Right." The object was to cut the pizza into eight pieces, using only three cuts. I got a different answer from yours.

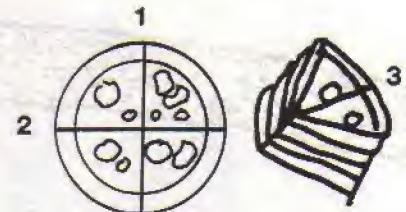
*Ryan Mott
Pratt, KS*



Dear CONTACT,

I got another answer to how to slice the pizza. Make your first slice vertically, make your second slice horizontally, stack the four pieces and cut them down the center.

*Jeanne Stern
Needham, MA*



Ryan and Jeanne found other ways to solve this puzzle. Our readers sent in so many solutions, we couldn't print them all.

WE WANT MAIL!

Dear Readers,

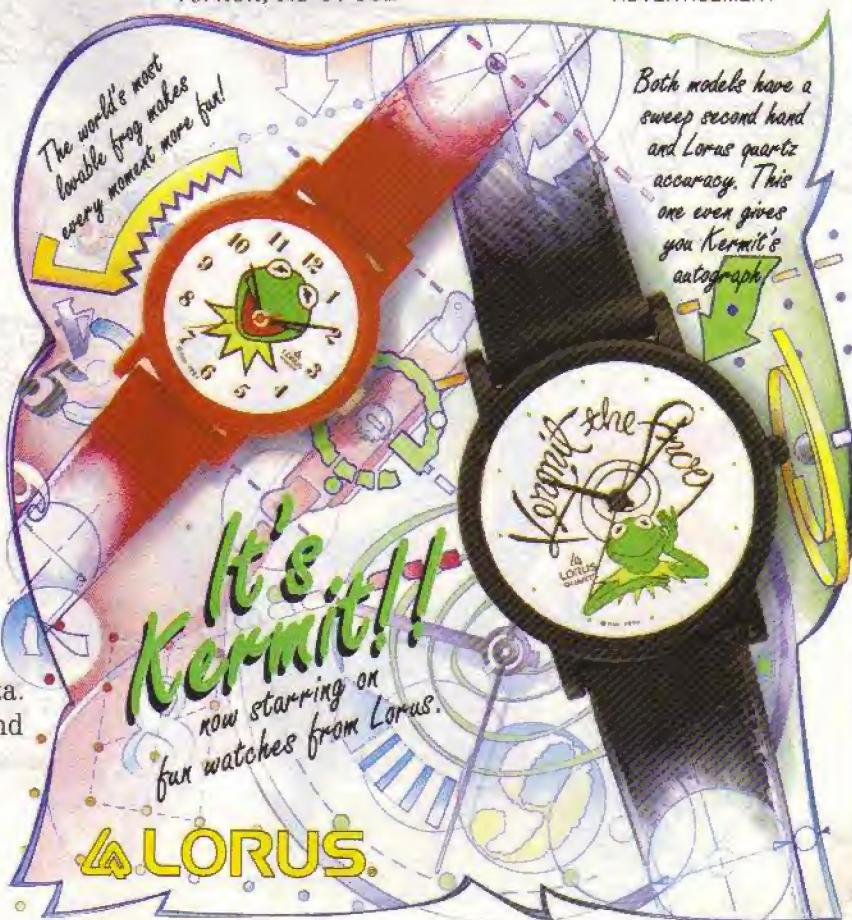
We love hearing from you. Your questions and ideas help us make CONTACT a better magazine. So why not drop us a line? We can't answer every letter, but we do read them all. Send your mail to:

3-2-1 CONTACT: Letters

P.O. Box 40

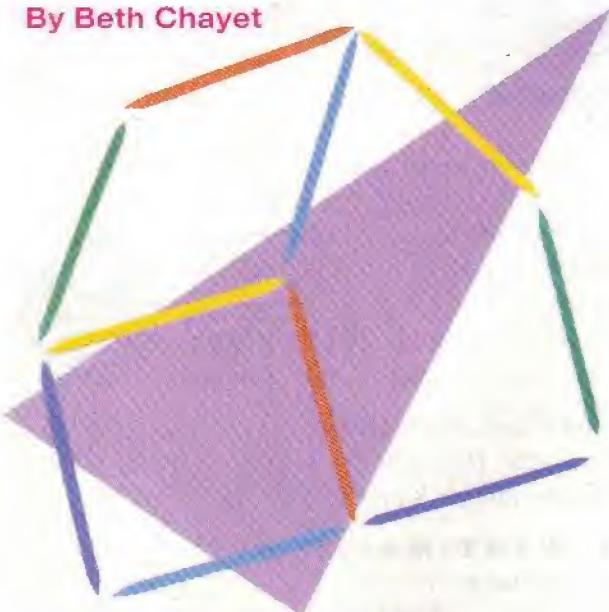
Vernon, NJ 07462

ADVERTISEMENT



T-O-T-A-L-L-Y

By Beth Chayet



ON THE HOUSE

Can you move two toothpicks to make the house face the opposite direction?



THE "MOLE" THING

How much dirt is there in a hole 14 inches long, 10 inches wide and five inches deep?



BULL'S-EYE

Using six arrows, what numbers must you hit on this target to score exactly 100? (HINT: You can hit a number more than once.)

Answers on the Did It page.

P U Z Z L E S

GIVE YOURSELF A HAND

Can you rearrange these cards so there is at least one eight just to the right of a five? When you're finished, there should be: at least one eight just to the left of an eight, at least one heart just to the left of a diamond and at least one heart just to the right of a heart.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOYANN ALCORN



RUNNING BACKWARDS

Four clocks are reflected in this mirror. Can you tell what time each clock shows? Which clock will strike one first?



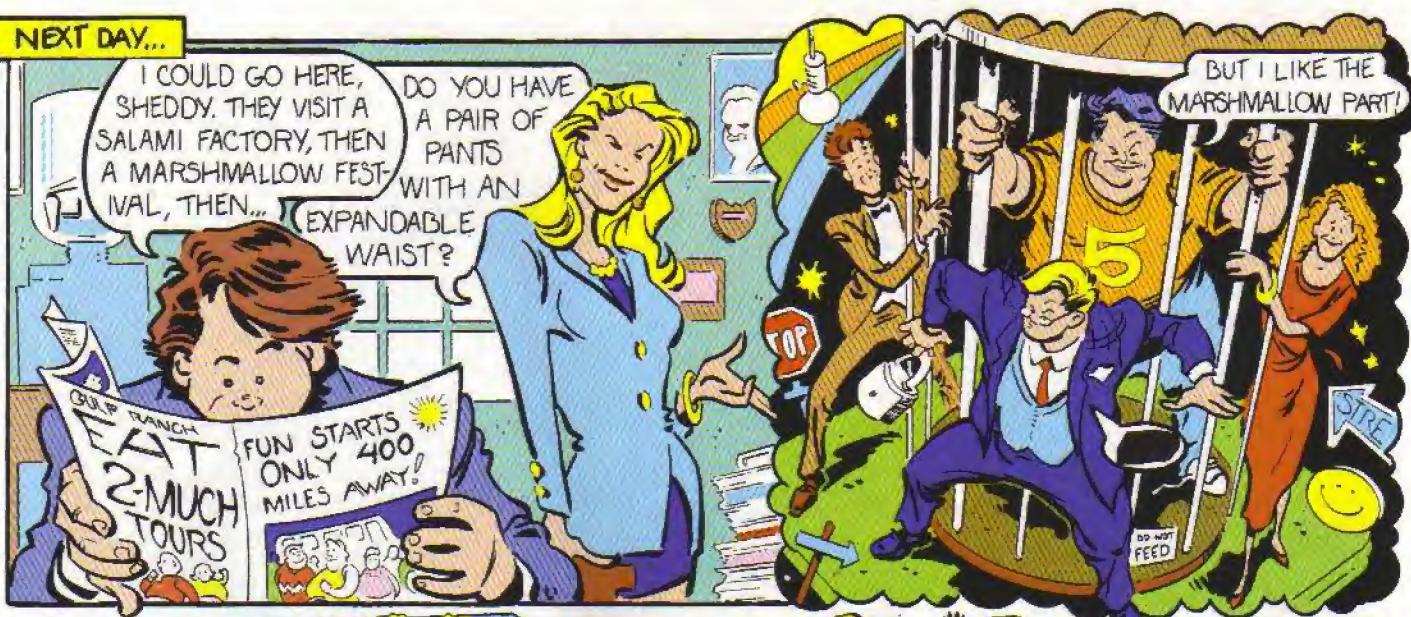
BERMAN'S BRAIN

BERMAN TAKES A VACATION

WRITTEN BY: ELIZABETH KENSHIAN
ART BY: AL BIGLEY



NEXT DAY...



ONE WEEK LATER...

MY ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF! DID I MISS THE FLIGHT?

NO, BUT YOUR TWO FRIENDS ARE ALREADY ON BOARD. I'M SORRY-I CAN'T LET YOU ON THE PLANE...

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO BERMAN?

I GUESS HE CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT TAKING A VACATION!

WHY ISN'T BERMAN ALLOWED ON THE PLANE

?

ANSWER
ON THE
DID IT PAGE!

CONTACT CONTACT CONTEST

Hide and Seek

The Contest:

Ready or not, get set to play! If you think these six images look familiar, you're right. Each is part of a photo or drawing that appears somewhere else in this issue of CONTACT. The object of the contest is to search through the magazine and find the page from which each image was taken. Start hunting!

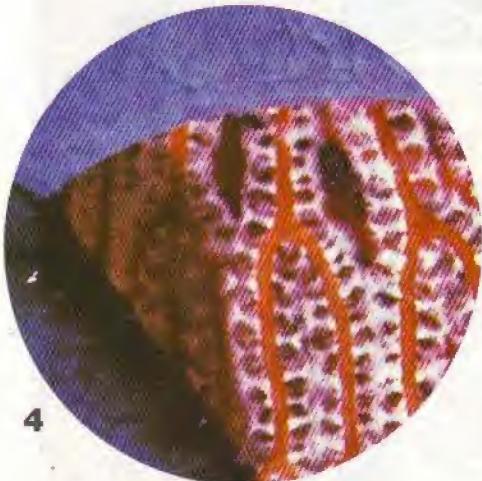
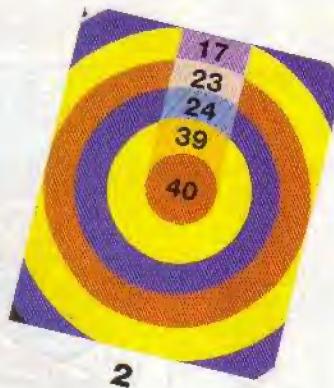
To Enter:

On a postcard or on the back of an envelope, write the page

number that each of the images is found on. Send it to: **Hide and Seek**

3-2-1 CONTACT Magazine
P.O. Box 40, Vernon, NJ 07462

Be sure to include your name, address and age. In case of a tie, winners will be chosen by a random drawing. All entries must be postmarked by June 6, 1993. Contest entries become the property of CTW and cannot be returned. The decision of the judges is final.





TWO GREAT NEW GRANOLA TASTES. ONE WHOLESOME SNACK.

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EXTRA!

By Beth Chayet



Double Takes

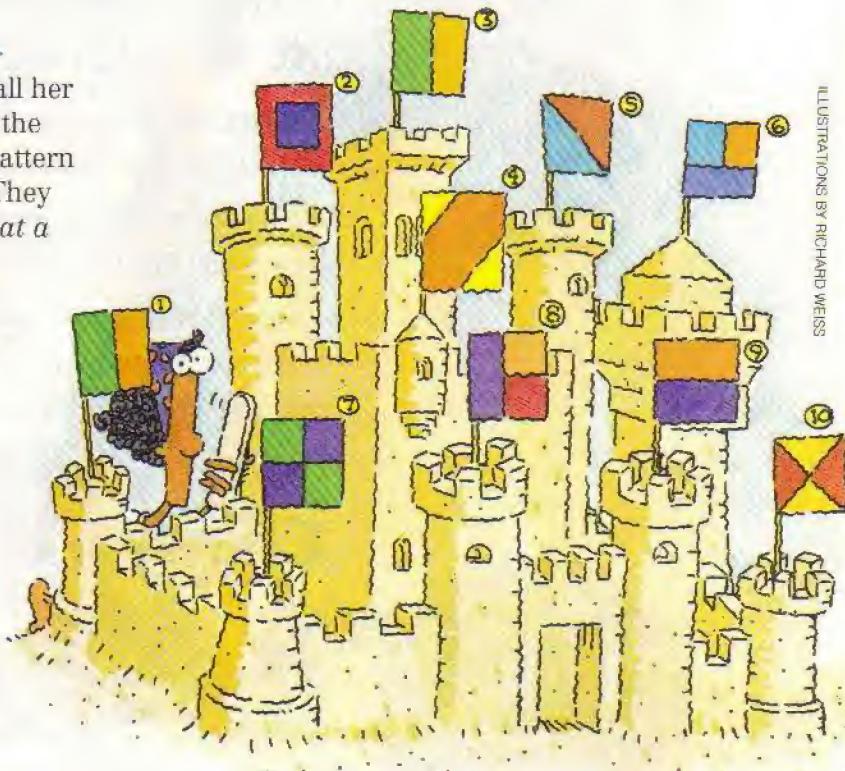
Here are the contestants in the annual Mutt and Jeff look-alike contest. Can you match each pet with its similar-looking owner?

The paired pets are on the Did It page.

For Shore

Sandy spent Sunday placing flags atop all her sandcastles. On the flags are patterns. Use the code below to figure out what letter each pattern stands for. Write the letters in the blanks. They will answer this riddle: *What can you find at a haunted beach?*

A	I	S
C	K	T
D	N	V
G	P	W
H	R	Y



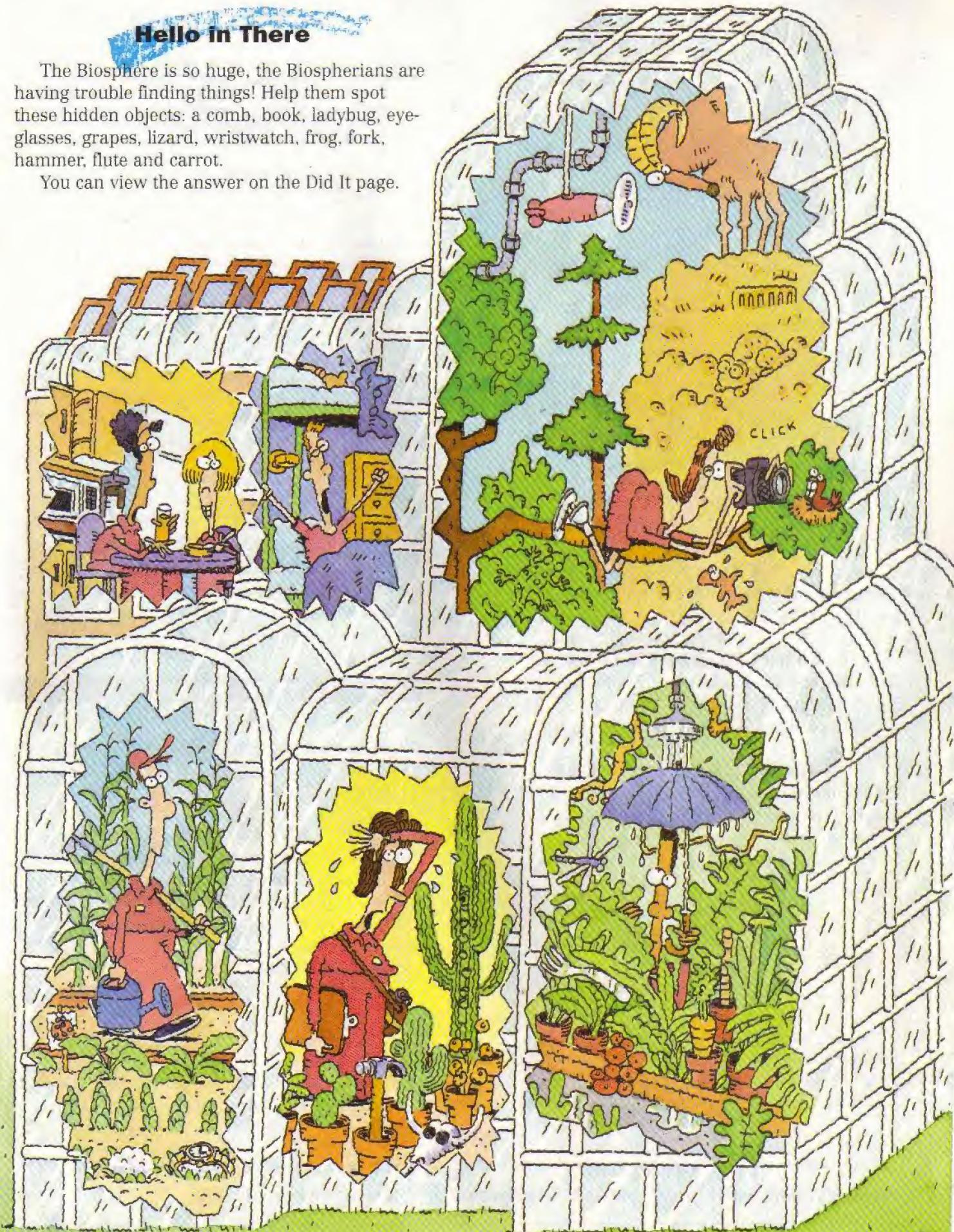
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICHARD WEISS

Answers on the Did It page.

Hello in There

The Biosphere is so huge, the Biospherians are having trouble finding things! Help them spot these hidden objects: a comb, book, ladybug, eyeglasses, grapes, lizard, wristwatch, frog, fork, hammer, flute and carrot.

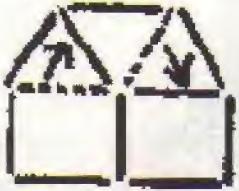
You can view the answer on the Did It page.





ON THE HOUSE

Here's how to make the house face in the opposite direction:



THE "HOLE" THING

The answer is none. There's no dirt in a hole.

BULL'S EYE

The six numbers you need to hit to score 100 are: 16, 16, 17, 17, 17, 17.

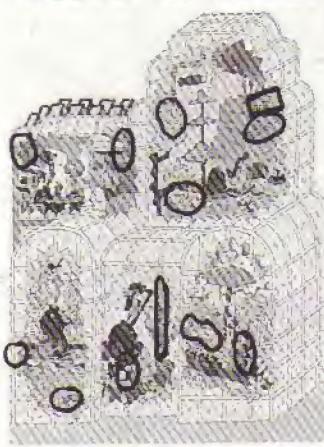
RUNNING BACKWARDS

The times on the clocks are, from left to right, top to bottom: 11:30, 12:50, 11:00, 12:53. The clock that reads 12:53 will strike one first.

GIVE YOURSELF A HAND

The order of the cards from left to right is: 5 of hearts, 8 of hearts, 8 of diamonds.

HELLO IN THERE



FOR SHORE

Answer: A sand-witch.

DOUBLE TAKES



BERMAN'S BRAIN

✗ Berman can't get on the plane because his "Go Anywhere" plane ticket only allows two people to travel 600 miles. Because "Club Fred" is 600 miles away and because his two friends are already on the plane, Berman can't board.

WE GOOFED

☆ In "What Do You Nose?" (Jan/Feb '93 issue), we said that an elephant's nose can hold 30 gallons of water. OOPS! An elephant's nose can only hold about 1 1/2 to 2 gallons of water. Thanks to all of our CONTACT readers who wrote to tell us.

✗ The answer to the "Gnome Alone 2" comic in the May '93 issue was left out. So here it is: The trolls should grab onto the middle rope. This is the only rope that will form a knot when it's pulled. But the trolls grabbed the other two ropes, which untied. The trolls crashed to the ground, while Kelvin got away.

NEXT MONTH

✗ What are you going to do now that school's out? Read the July/August issue of CONTACT, naturally! Here's a preview:

SNEAKER MANIA

✗ You walk in them, play in them, you practically live in them: your sneakers. In this ultimate sneaker feature, we'll tell you everything you always wanted to know about everybody's favorite footwear.

CAN YOU SEE 3D?



How To "SEE"

To see the hidden 3D object, STARE! Look through the picture as if it were a window. If you keep staring, you'll see a third dot magically appear between the two big dots. Soon it will feel like you're looking right INTO the picture. Parts will come out at you, parts will go in. You're learning a new way to see. Be patient, because like anything new, it might take a little practice. Have fun, and be sure to help your friends!

FREE GIFT!

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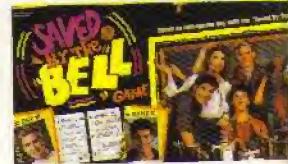
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GAME
Sell 8 Items



CLOWN TROLL BY RUSS
Sell 9 Items



"TOTALLY HAIR" BARBIE
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"SEETHRU" 35mm CAMERA
Sell 11 Items



WILSON "MICHAEL JORDAN" BASKETBALL
Sell 12 Items



"ART WORX" ART CENTER
Sell 9 Items

TASCO MICROSCOPE LAB
Sell 12 Items

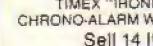


"BEDAZZLER" JEWEL MACHINE
Sell 11 Items



"BEDAZZLER" JEWEL MACHINE
Sell 11 Items

TIMEX "IRONMAN" CHRONO-ALARM WATCH
Sell 14 Items



TEXSPORT
TWO-PERSON
DOME TENT
Sell
18 Items

